Manitoba

Annual Report 1985-86

Agriculture

The Manitoba
Farm Lands
Ownership Board

Manitoba

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FARM LANDS OWNERSHIP BOARD
805 - 401 York Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C OP8

September 18, 1986

The Honourable Billie Uruski
Minister of Agriculture
165 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C OV8

Dear Mr. Uruski:

I have the honour to submit The Annual Report of The Manitoba Farm Lands Ownership Board for the period April 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion McNabb

Marion McNabb, Chairman
THE MANITOBA FARM LANDS OWNERSHIP BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANITOBA FARM LANDS OWNERSHIP BOARD FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 1985 TO MARCH 31, 1986

The Manitoba Farm Lands Ownership Board is a quasi-judicial and administrative body established under 6(1) of The Farm Lands Ownership Act. The Board is responsible for the administration and enforcement of The Farm Lands Ownership Act as well as certain additional duties and powers as specified in the Legislation.

BOARD MEMBERS

Marion McNabb, Chairman	-	Minnedosa, Manitoba
Ron Buzahora, Vice-Chairman	-	Sprague, Manitoba
Walter Kolisnyk, Member	-	Renwer, Manitoba
Pierre Lambert, Member	-	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Otto Fielman, Member	-	Rosenfeld, Manitoba

ADMINISTRATION

Richard Loeb, Executive Director
J. F. Redgwell, Solicitor, Department of Attorney General

STAFF

H. Dale Osborne, Investigations Officer
Dorothy Nowicki, Acting Administrative Assistant
Marian Ferens, Clerk

GENERAL

The Farm Lands Ownership Act was passed by the Legislature in 1983, and Proclaimed September 26, 1984.

The Administration of the Act involves the Board and administrative staff in all areas related to the acquiring of an interest in farm land in Manitoba.

Certain categories of persons can acquire or hold an interest in Manitoba farm land

without restriction or limitation. These include (a) a resident, (b) a family farm corporation (as defined in the Act), (c) a Municipality, (d) a Local Government District; or (e) an agency of the Government. The Act is not retroactive.

Non residents can acquire Manitoba farm land if it is bequeathed to them by a Manitoba resident, a retired farmer, or his spouse.

A retired farmer or his spouse or an active farmer who has farmed for at least ten years, may also transfer land to certain immediate relatives, although these may be non residents.

BOARD ACTIVITIES

Under 3(3) of The Farm Lands Ownership Act, the Board has authority to exempt individuals, corporations, farm land or an interest in farm land from any provisions of the Legislation.

The Board met eight times between April 1, 1985 and March 31, 1986 to consider applications for exemptions. One telephone conference meeting was also held.

One-hundred and seventy-five applications for exemptions were considered by the Board. One-hundred and fifty-three exemption orders were issued, while twenty-two applications were denied. Farm land involved in the applications totalled 157,574 acres. Exemption approvals constituted 149,348 acres (94.8%).

The largest number of exemption approvals were to non-farm corporations (31). These corporations were involved in (a) providing services to the agricultural industry, (b) sand and gravel operations, (c) other. Twenty-five approvals were granted to persons who have made a commitment to become Manitoba residents, while twenty-four exemption orders were issued to other non residents for various reasons. Approvals were given to twenty-one applications under 1(f) of The Farm Lands Ownership Act Regulations (public interest). Nineteen applications from farm family holding companies and communal owners were approved.

Fifteen exemption orders were issued to non profit and charitable organizations in regard to purchases of farm land. Fourteen applications were approved on the basis that the applicant had an interest in Manitoba farm land prior to the Proclamation of the Act, while four exemptions were granted to applicants living and farming within ten miles of the Manitoba border.

ADMINISTRATION

Following the Proclamation of The Farm Lands Ownership Act, the 1985/86 year continued to be a demanding one for the Board and staff. Numerous inquiries from individuals, law and real estate firms seeking information and assistance on the Legislation were dealt with by the office.

Under the Real Property Act and the Registry Act, transfers of land over five acres tendered for registration, must be accompanied by a statutory declaration stating information pertinent to the transaction. In the period April 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986, the office received and processed 6,196 statutory declarations.

The Board office supplies data for statistical purposes to the Economic Analysis section. The adoption of a revised computer input format has reduced the time-lag experienced in supplying this information.

SUMMARY

The administration and enforcement of The Farm Lands Ownership Act has continued smoothly as the public, board and staff have become more familiar with the Legislation.

September 11, 1986